In the claims: Please change the claims as indicated.

1.   (Currently amended)   A method for use ~~in connection with
discontinuous signaling~~ by a feedback-signal-transmitting entity
(12) ~~in communication with a signal-receiving entity (14), the
method for use by the signal-transmitting entity (12)~~ in
indicating to ~~the~~ a feedback-signal-receiving entity (14) during
a current time interval ~~a~~ one or another state (signaling active
state, DTX state) ~~from among~~ in a plurality of different possible
states (signaling active states, DTX state) in any one of which
the feedback-signal-transmitting entity (12) ~~occupies~~ can exist
in ~~a~~ any time interval in which the feedback-signal-transmitting
entity (12) either signals all or part of a payload message to
the feedback-signal-receiving entity (14) or ~~exists~~ instead
operates in discontinuous mode, wherein the payload message is
sent in response to a packet previously transmitted by the
feedback-signal-receiving entity (14) and conveys feedback
indicating whether the packet was successfully received, is
transmitted in a predefined offset of one or more time intervals
from the current time ~~interval~~ interval, and ~~the payload message~~
comprises a sequence of payload message symbols selected from a
set of possible payload message symbols, the method characterized
in that it comprises:

a step (41) in which in order to indicate whether the
payload message is being or was transmitted in a predefined
positive or negative offset of one or more time intervals from
the current time interval, the feedback-signal-transmitting
entity (12) additionally signals in the current time interval an
indication symbol providing preamble or postamble signalling;

and further characterized in that the indication symbol
differs from each of the possible payload message symbols, and in

-2-

that the indication symbol is sent either in advance of or after the payload message.

2. (Currently amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein the indication symbol can be one or another symbol selected from a predetermined group of symbols, and the indication symbol sent is selected based on when the time interval in which the payload is sent or was sent occurs compared to the current time interval.

3. (Currently amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein the payload message provided by the feedback-signal-~~receiving~~ transmitting entity (12) is provided on a feedback channel as feedback to the feedback-signal-receiving entity (14) for data transmitted over a data-transmission channel by the feedback-signal-receiving entity (14), wherein in response to receiving and successfully decoding a data signal provided by the feedback-~~data~~signal-transmitting entity (14), the feedback-signal-transmitting entity (12) provides to the feedback-signal-receiving entity (14) a corresponding acknowledgement message (ACK/NACK) in one of the sequence of time intervals corresponding to the time of receipt of the data signal in a predetermined way, the method characterized by further comprising:

a step (41) in which the feedback-~~data~~signal-receiving entity (12) additionally provides a preamble symbol in the current time interval if an acknowledgement message (ACK/NACK) is to be sent in the next time interval but not in the current time interval.

4. (Original) A method as in claim 3, further characterized in that: a signaling cycle related to the previous, current or next time interval in the feedback channel is adapted according to a minimum applicable interval either in the data-transmission

channel or in the feedback channel, whichever minimum applicable interval is higher.

5.   (Currently amended)   The method of ~~claim 5~~claim 3, further characterized in that if neither an acknowledgement message nor a preamble symbol is to be sent in the current time interval, and an acknowledgement message was sent in the previous time interval, then a step (42) is performed in which the feedback-signal-transmitting entity (12) additionally provides at least one postamble symbol in one or more respective consecutive time intervals prior to the feedback-signal-transmitting entity (12) entering a mode in which it does not transmit on the feedback channel.

6.   (Original)   A method as in claim 5, further characterized in that: a signaling cycle related to the previous, current or next time interval in the feedback channel is adapted according to a minimum applicable interval either in the data-transmission channel or in the feedback channel, whichever minimum applicable interval is higher.

7.   (Currently amended)   The method of claim 5, further characterized in that in the step (42) in which the feedback-signal-transmitting entity (12) additionally provides at least one postamble symbol, the feedback-signal-transmitting entity (12) provides two consecutive postamble symbols if neither a preamble symbol nor an acknowledgement message (ACK/NACK) is to be sent in either the current time interval or the next time interval, and acknowledgement messages (ACK/NACK) were sent in the two immediately preceding time intervals.

8.   (Currently amended)   A feedback-signal-transmitting entity (12), characterized in that it is operative according to the

method of claim 1.

9. (Currently amended) A feedback-signal-transmitting entity
(12), characterized in that it is operative according to the
method of claim 2.

10. (Currently amended) A feedback-signal-transmitting entity
(12), characterized in that it is operative according to the
method of claim 3.

11. (Currently amended) A feedback-signal-transmitting entity
(12), characterized in that it is operative according to the
method of claim 4.

12. (Currently amended) A feedback-signal-transmitting entity
(12), characterized in that it is operative according to the
method of claim 5.

13. (Currently amended) A feedback-signal-transmitting entity
(12), characterized in that it is operative according to the
method of claim 6.

14. (Currently amended) A feedback-signal-transmitting entity
(12), characterized in that it is operative according to the
method of claim 7.

15. (Currently amended) A telecommunication system, including a
feedback-signal-transmitting entity (12) and a feedback-signal-
receiving entity (14), characterized in that the feedback-signal-
transmitting entity (12) is operative according to the method of
claim 1, and the feedback-signal-receiving entity (14) uses the
preamble and postamble signalling to determine the current state
of the signal-transmitting entity (12) from among the plurality

of different possible states (signalling active states, DTX
state).

16.   (Currently amended)   A telecommunication system, including a
feedback-signal-transmitting entity (12) and a feedback-signal-
receiving entity (14), characterized in that the feedback-signal-
transmitting entity (12) is operative according to the method of
claim 2, and the feedback-signal-receiving entity (14) uses the
preamble and postamble signalling to determine the current state
of the feedback-signal-transmitting entity (12) from among the
plurality of different possible states (signalling active states,
DTX state).

17.   (Currently amended)   A telecommunication system, including a
feedback-signal-transmitting entity (12) and a feedback-signal-
receiving entity (14), characterized in that the feedback-signal-
transmitting entity (12) is operative according to the method of
claim 3, and the feedback-signal-receiving entity (14) uses the
preamble and postamble signalling to determine the current state
of the feedback-signal-transmitting entity (12) from among the
plurality of different possible states (signalling active states,
DTX state).

18.   (Currently amended)   A telecommunication system, including a
feedback-signal-transmitting entity (12) and a feedback-signal-
receiving entity (14), characterized in that the feedback-signal-
transmitting entity (12) is operative according to the method of
claim 5, and the feedback-signal-receiving entity (14) uses the
preamble and postamble signalling to determine the current state
of the feedback-signal-transmitting entity (12) from among the
plurality of different possible states (signalling active states,
DTX state).

19. (Currently amended) A telecommunication system, including a feedback-signal-transmitting entity (12) and a feedback-signal-receiving entity (14), characterized in that the feedback-signal-transmitting entity (12) is operative according to the method of claim 6, and the feedback-signal-receiving entity (14) uses the preamble and postamble signalling to determine the current state of the feedback-signal-transmitting entity (12) from among the plurality of different possible states (signalling active states, DTX state).

20. (Currently amended) A telecommunication system, including a feedback-signal-transmitting entity (12) and a feedback-signal-receiving entity (14), characterized in that the feedback-signal-transmitting entity (12) is operative according to the method of claim 7, and the feedback-signal-receiving entity (14) uses the preamble and postamble signalling to determine the current state of the feedback-signal-transmitting entity (12) from among the plurality of different possible states (signalling active states, DTX state).